

## Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

EB-07 COME-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /063 W

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O 062015Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 91

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7436

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS CASC, SOCI, CO

SUBJ: KIDNAPPING OF SEARS ROEBUCK EXECUTIVE - DONALD E COOPER

1. FOL ARE DETAILS OF KIDNAPPING LEARNED THUS FAR FROM COOK AND CHAUFFEUR OF COOPER.
2. COOPER ARRIVED HOME ABOUT 1815 AND SHORTLY AFTER SENT CHAUFFEUR OUT TO BUY CASE OF BEER. HE PROCEEDED TO SHOWER AND CHANGE TO LOUNGING CLOTHES.
3. SHORTLY THEREAFTER DOORBELL RANG, COOK ANSWERED (A SECOND MAID WAS OUT ON DAY OFF), SAW TWO WELL-GROOMED YOUNG MEN IN YELLOW SHIRTS DELIVERING FLOWERS. THEY OFFERED TO CARRY THEM INTO HOUSE; COOK SAID SHE WOULD TAKE THEM IN HERSELF. THEY THEN STATED SHE MUST SIGN RECEIPT. SHE SAID SHE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO SIGN BUT WOULD CALL COOPER TO SIGN. WHEN SHE ATTEMPTED TO CLOSE DOOR THEY FORCED WAY IN, FOLLOWED BY FIVE MORE MEN AND A WOMAN WHO WAS CLEARLY IN CHARGE OF OP. COOK SCREAMED AND WHILE TWO MEN SCUFFLED WITH HER (SHE WAS WOUNDED IN HEAD BY BLOW WITH PISTOL BUTT) OTHER FIVE PROCEEDED TO INTERIOR OF HOUSE AND SEIZED COOPER.

4. WHEN CHAUFFEUR RETURNED IN CAR, WOMAN IN CHARGE PUT ON COOK'S

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APRON AND OPENED GARAGE DOOR; CHAUFFEUR DROVE IN WITHOUT REALIZING

ANYTHING WRONG (ALTHOUGH COOK IS HIS SISTER) AND WAS JUMPED BY GROUP AFTER GARAGE DOOR CLOSED. AT THAT TIME ONE SHOT WAS FIRED. BULLET, WHICH WAS RECOVERED, IS A 45 CALIBER.

5. CHAUFFEUR AND MAID WERE THEN BOUND HAND AND FOOT. COOPER, ALSO BOUND, WAS PLACED IN TRUNK OF HIS OWN CAR, A 1968 FORD GALAXIE. THEN, ACCORDING TO SERVANTS, AFTER ASKING HOW TO START CAR, ALL EIGHT GOT IN AND DROVE OFF.

6. COOK FREED HERSELF ABOUT ONE HALF HOUR LATER AND CALLED ANOTHER SEARS OFFICIAL, WHO NOTIFIED POLICE AT 1915. COOK AND CHAUFFEUR HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY POLICE FOR FURTHER QUESTIONING.

7. THE EMB HAS SET UP A TASK FORCE COMPRISED OF KEY PER TO MAINTAIN LIAISON WITH SEARS OFFICIALS AND WITH COLOMBIAN SECURITY FORCES, WHICH ARE MOUNTING A MAJOR INVESTIGATORY EFFORT AND TO PROVIDE EXPEDITIOUS REPORTS TO DEPT.

8. BECAUSE NEWS OF KIDNAPPING IS BOUND TO HAVE FRIGHTENING EFFECT ON REST OF AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY, TASK FORCE ALSO WILL PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS TO SUCH INQUIRERS AS TO HOW THEY CAN IMPROVE THEIR OWN PERSONAL SECURITY.

9. IT IS NOTABLE THAT KIDNAP GROUP APPEARED TO BE WELL DISCIPLINED, WITH WOMAN MEMBER COMPLETELY IN CHARGE. AT ONE POINT ONE OF MEN THREATENED COOK WITH RAPE AND WAS TOLD BY WOMAN LEADER TO DESIST. ANOTHER MAN TRIED TO CARRY OFF SOME JEWELRY BELONGING TO MRS COOPER AND WAS ORDERED BY WOMAN TO REPLACE IT EXACTLY AS FOUND, WITH REMARK TO EFFECT THIS WAS NOT THAT KIND OF OP. SIGNIFICANTLY, SERVANTS STATED AT LEAST ONE OF MEN HAD AN ARGENTINE OR URUGUAYAN ACCENT. ALSO OF INTEREST IS FACT THAT COOPER'S ATTACHE CASE, CONTAINING PERSONAL PAPERS, CHECKBOOKS, ETC. WERE ALLEGEDLY STOLEN SIX OR EIGHT WEEKS AGO.

10. ALTHOUGH TOO EARLY TO COME TO DEFINITE CONCLUSION, COOPER KIDNAPPING DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE EARMARKS OF A "NORMAL" COLOMBIAN CRIMINAL KIDNAPPING. WE NOTE DISCIPLINE EXHIBITED BY GROUP, AND POSSIBILITY NOT ALL OF THEM COLOMBIANS.

11. RE: 7/6 TELCON SINN/COX: AS STATED REFTTEL, COOPER'S MOTHER  
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LIVES AT 1500 E. D STREET, NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA, AND HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN PRESENTLY VISITING THERE. VAKY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BOGOTA07436  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750271-0965  
**From:** BOGOTA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750875/aaaacnzy.tel  
**Line Count:** 109  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SCCT  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KIDNAPPING OF SEARS ROEBUCK EXECUTIVE - DONALD E COOPER  
**TAGS:** CASC, SOCI, CO, SEARS, (COOPER, DONALD E)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006